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Tuesday, February 19, 1952

Met at Embassy at 8:15. Tripartite Conference at Foreign Office at 10:30, with especial attention to various communiqués to be issued, summarizing results achieved.

News came through from Paris that the Parliament had this morning passed the resolution endorsing with reservations the European Army project. The conferees faced again the insistence by the French, in relation to security controls, of a prohibition on big gun barrels and powder, and the French would like civil aviation included in the list of prohibited items.

There was a long interchange of views before the text of a letter to be sent by Fedrep to the U. S. and U. K. was agreed upon. The list of prohibited items caused great difficulties. How, for instance, does one define what are "weapons of chemical warfare"?

The conversation finally terminated about 1:30, and Vangie and I went off for a quick lunch at Bucks. I had

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brought some light material for suits which I bought in Rome, and I went to Huntsman's to have it made up.

Then E., John Kelly and I motored out to London Airport where we waited for Dean and his entourage to board the shining blue and silver "Independence". We took off at five o'clock. What a contrast to the trips I made in 1940 and 1941 between England and Lisbon. My favorite pilot, a tall Dutchman whom I remember vividly, was shot down with Leslie Howard, as one of his passengers, because, it is said, the Germans mistakenly assumed he was transporting Winston Churchill. In those days one flew far out to sea over the Bay of Biscay with all the windows blacked out, a seven hour flight in a Dakota, or an even longer one, which I did twice in a flying boat, where one sat, or rather bent, in pitch darkness. Then the arrival at Lisbon was always thrilling. The most satisfactory thing was the lights, and afterwards a hot bath in the great marble tubs of the Hotel Aviz, with a delicious dinner to follow. Of course going the other way was a

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complete contrast, except [redacted] the excitement of arriving in embattled England was always intense. [redacted]

This time we did the trip in 3 1/2 hours. I read Marthe Bibesco's book on the Comte d'Artois (Charles ~~II~~ X) and Louise de Palostron (called the Sphinx of Bagatelle), and also The Road to Oxiana by Robert Byron.

We were quartered at the Aviz, and almost immediately went to a large dinner at our Ambassador's, Lincoln McVeagh, who has just been named [redacted] Ambassador to Spain. He has an unattractive rented house, is a notable Greek scholar, and smokes twenty cigars a day.

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